



SOCER ACTION

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Hungary here in January

The national teams of Hungary and Yugoslavia have been invited to play tournaments in Sydney and Melbourne next January. The tournaments will mark the 25th anniversary of St. George-Budapest and Melbourne Soccer Club. George coach Frank Arok says Hungary has accepted the Saints' invitation to a part in the tournaments.

He said he also would invite Yugoslavia, but if he is unsuccessful, he will take top club side Vojvodina.

Each tournament will comprise four teams — Hungary and another from overseas, and two local sides.

"St George would of course play in the Sydney tournament. The other local side could be a Sydney select eleven, or perhaps

a local Middle-European all-stars team," Arok said.

Meanwhile, Saints are relying on victory over Croatia in the NSW grand final on Sunday to boost their application for national league membership.

"Having lost to Croatia a few times this year, we must come out of this season with a title to back up our claims," Arok said.

HERMISTON IS OUR NO. 1

Youths China-bound

Oscar Crino

The national youth team will compete in a tournament in China after the world youth championships.

The United States also has been invited to take part. The tournament starts on October 19 — the day after the final of the world championships. Presumably the USA does not expect Australia to advance that far.

"Some of the youth squad may not be available for the trip to China because of their heavy commitments over the next two months," ASFA youth development officer Brian Neary said this week.

"So we may take along two or three players from the youth Institute who will be eligible for the 1983 world championships."

The youth players entered camp at the Park Royal Hotel in Canberra on Monday.

They will switch to Sydney on September 28. Coach Les Scheinflug will cut his 22-man squad to a 16 next week.

The squad is: Glen Ahearn, Dennis Ivanac, Oscar Crino, Dave Skeen, Robert Wheately, Ian McKie, Steve Blair, Mal Tuttle, Howard Tredinnick, Brett Woods, Lee, Attilia Carbone, Paul Kay, Jim Patikas, Peter Raskopoulos, Dennis Colouso, John Little, Fabio Cantalupo, Mark Koussas, Ian Hunter, David Mitchell, in Gray. Reserves: Brett Beeves, Chris Manou, Luciano Gignore, Bruno Cozzella.

Ajax or Croydon for the Cup?



Jim McRobert

Green Gully Ajax will be on an odds-on favorite for the 1981 Dockey Cup if it beats Croydon in Sunday's semi-final at Olympic Park No. 2.

The other semi-finalists, Sunshine and Altona, clash at 1pm in the first game of Sunday's double header.

The draw for the semi-finals was made last Monday morning at Soccer House and dashed WSF hopes for a repeat of this year's Ampol Cup Final between Ajax and Croydon.

The quarter-final defeat of Crotia has robbed the cup of much glamour but Sunshine and the relegated Altona have a last chance to match some solace from an otherwise dismal season.

Sunshine defender Dennis Marovic, badly concussed in the win over Crotia, won't be available for the Altona clash but winger Jimmy McRobert may be fit after

missing last Sunday's game through injury.

Ajax and Croydon should be able to field the same squads as they did last weekend and although Sunshine is growing in confidence the 1981 Dockey Cup should go to the winner of Sunday's second semi-final. — CRAIG MACKENZIE



The "Soccer Action"-JAT Player of the Year, Jim Hermiston (right) in a tussle with Adelaide City's David Mitchell, runner-up in the voting.

Jim Hermiston of Brisbane Lions is the "Soccer Action" — Yugoslav Airlines Player of the Year for the second successive season.

"Marvellous, great. That makes me feel much better," said the Queensland policeman when we rang him in Brisbane.

"I was injured in training and I missed my first match in four years on Sunday."

Hermiston, 34 this month, has damaged ligaments in his right knee but is confident of being fit for the Philips Cup final in Canberra on Sunday.

Hermiston won the Yugoslav Airlines award with 88 votes.

Second was David Mitchell of Adelaide City Juventus with 75 and third Peter Wilson of APIA with 73.

Previous winners of the award were: 1976 Steve Kokesha (Vic) and Bruce Stowell (NSW); 1977 Jimmy Rooney; 1978 Ken Boden; 1979: Ivo Prskalo; 1980: Jim Hermiston.

Hermiston is a physical education instructor at the Queensland Police Academy

His hobby is long distance running, which he plans to take up more seriously when he retires from soccer.

He recently won his first marathon against 70 police cadets in 3 hours 22 minutes, but he wants to get his marathon time down below three hours.

Apart from his soccer training, he runs five miles three or four times a week.

Hermiston's contact with Lions expired this year and he won't commit himself about his future until he's negotiated with the committee.

There's another potential star in the Hermiston family — 13-year-old James who's just come back from Darwin where he played with the Queensland State under 13 team in the national championships.

Jim and his wife Maureen have two other children — Julie, 14, and Louise, 9.

Hermiston spent 10 years with Scottish club Aberdeen, mostly as a full back, but he played midfield when Aberdeen won the Scottish Cup final 3-1 against Celtic in 1970.

Hermiston, 34 this month, has damaged ligaments in his right knee but is confident of being fit for the Philips Cup final in Canberra on Sunday.

Among his team mates were Martin Buchan, Arthur Graham, Bobby Clarke and George Murray, who's now coach of Canberra City.

During that illustrious career, he won about a dozen Division of the Year awards

and in 1974 he was voted Scottish Player of the Year by the Players' Union.

He has three Scottish under 23 caps, played for the Scottish League three times, and he was in Scotland's preliminary 40-man World Cup squad in 1974 but did not make the final 22.

It was Queensland State League club Grange Thistle that brought him to Australia in 1977.

Grange loaned him to Brisbane City, which meant he played two games every weekend — one for each club.

He won a Caltex "Telegraph" Sportsman of the Month award after playing four games in as many days — an Ampol Cup semi-final for Grange on Friday night, PSL games for Brisbane City on Saturday and Sunday, and the Ampol Cup final for Grange on Monday night.

His \$30,000 transfer from City to Lions in 1978 remains the most expensive Australian domestic transfer.

Hermiston praised David Mitchell, his runner-up in this year's voting.

"He's a top young player," he said. "He's aggressive, he's got good control and he shields the ball very well. It's very hard to take it away from him."

JUGOSLOVENSKA SCENA:14

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΝΕΑ ΣΕΛΙΣ:15



Cedo Cirkovic



Peter Ollerton

J.U.S.T's chance for revenge

Footscray J.U.S.T. will try to turn the tables on its main tormentor, Preston-Makedonia, in a home-and-away challenge over the next two Sundays.

Makedonia has had the better of J.U.S.T. over the past few seasons.

But J.U.S.T. has the chance to get even when it meets Makedonia at Connor Reserve in Reservoir at 3pm on Sunday and again at Schinelle Reserve, Footscray, the following Sunday.

Prize money of \$2000 will go to the overall winner.

Both teams saved themselves from relegation this year with a remarkable comeback.

Makedonia replaced coach Brian Edgley with Peter Ollerton and bought Isaac Farrell and Richard Wilson from Canberra and Peter Boyle from West Adelaide Hellas.

Footscray J.U.S.T. coach Cedo Cirkovic persevered quietly until Zdravko Lujic and then Johan Verweij arrived to pep up an ailing forward line. Nebojsa Licanic from Yugoslavia was to have been another savior, but he flopped so badly that the club sent him home again.

The fortunes of Makedonia and J.U.S.T. have run parallel for most of the season.

At the half-way mark, for example, Makedonia was 12th and J.U.S.T. 13th. They still were in the same positions before the last round at the weekend.

But improvement is reflected in figures for the second half of the season. Whereas Makedonia scored 11 points in the first half, it added 14 points in the second half. J.U.S.T. did even better, notching 15 second-half points compared with 10 in the first half.

J.U.S.T. will use Milan Kojic and Slobodan Popovic in its challenge matches against Makedonia, Kojic, a forward, and Popovic, a sweeper, have been used by Northcote City since arriving this year from Yugoslavia, but they will switch to J.U.S.T. next season.

Anyone for a Cup final?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The betting for the Philips Cup final at Canberra's Bruce Stadium on Sunday is not so much about who will win, but whether anyone will watch it.

A home and away final would have been much more desirable — and much more profitable.

It's not clear who the firm favorites, but sentiment must favor West Adelaide Hellas, the unfortunate struggler which finished last in the national league.

The possibility of strengthening its case for readmission to the league by winning the Cup is foremost in the minds of the Hellas players and administrators.

But to achieve an upset result, Hellas desperately needs all its stars back.

Graeme Honeyman, Manecas, Con Kambas and Vic Bozanic have been among the recent absentees due to injury or suspension. Men like that are impossible to replace.

Coch Peter Jakska, who hopes to go to Europe to import new players, acknowledges Lions' strengths but believes that with a full team, Hellas could end the year with the Cup as compensation for league failure.

But its the Lions who have the form, the talent and the confidence to win the final.

Jim Hermiston, the leader of the Lions pack, will make a triumphant entry to the Bruce Stadium pitch, after having been voted the "Soccer Action" — Yugoslav Airlines Player of the Year for the second successive season.

As usual, Hermiston's accurate long passes out of defence will determine the nature of Lions' play. Big Calvin Daunt is up front to nod the ball toward goal, or down onto the willing boots of Billy Williamson, who has been scoring regularly since arriving from Scotland mid-way through the year.

And in midfield, MacLean, Ferris and Hogg look a much tighter unit than any combination Jakska is able to come up with.

Left back Alan Niven always plays a controlled game, always willing to attack, but ever mindful of his defensive duties as well.

West Adelaide Hellas has no such full back when Vic Bozanic is unavailable.

Tom Forde, Ian McKie and Con Kambas, if available, will fight tooth and nail to shackles the Lions but it's goalkeeper Martyn Crook who will be the biggest stumbling block to the Queenslanders.

Crook has been in superlative form again this year and if Hellas snatches a fairytale victory, you can bet Crook will be chaired off the field by whatever spectators happen to be available.

Previous Cup winners were Brisbane City in 1977 and 1978, Adelaide City Juventus in 1979 and Manecas in 1980.

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**NATIONAL ATHLETIC
(Bruce) STADIUM**

Sunday, 20th September

(Gates open: 11 am)

Early Match: 1 pm

Cup Final: 3 pm

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Egan, Gardiner, Toal, Bannon vie for medal



Bobby Toal

Charlie Egan of Frankston, John Gardiner of Ajax, Paddy Bannon of Croatia and Bobby Toal of George Cross should fight out the Victorian Rothmans Medal for the Best and Fairest player in the Victorian State League.

Bannon and Gardiner polled well in Ametco Travel's State League Player of the Year award while discussions I've had with referee and players suggest Egan and Toal should figure prominently in tomorrow night's (Thursday's) presentation at the Southern Cross hotel in Melbourne.

Gardiner has won the Rothmans Medal twice, in 1971 and 1972, while Bannon won the medal in 1974. No player has won a hat-trick of Rothmans Medal so a win to Gardiner would be a historic result.

If I have to stick out my neck and tip the winner then Egan's my pick.

I'm not at liberty to name the six referees I've spoken to about the ace Frankston scorer but, without exception they felt that Egan deserved protection from them because they saw him as the target for some rough treatment for defenders.

Some of these conversations took place before matches which prompts me to speculate how much referees take Egan's diminutive size and superb close ball skills into account.

I think Egan stands out in a game and I see him as one of a handful of players who immediately come under close scrutiny from referees.

I've spoken to a couple of George Cross players in recent weeks. They've asked referees about votes after George Cross's last seven State League games and the players concerned assure me that Toal has polled a staggering 15 votes from those games.

Gardiner has been the best player in the State League for the past two years in which I've covered the league for "Soccer Action". I've got no reservations about making that claim. For me

there's not better football brain in Victoria. His vision, skill and attitude are second to none.

Paddy Bannon has had an outstanding season since joining Croatia from PSL club Heidelberg United just before the opening league game of the year.

Consistency has been the keynote to Bannon's success. His on-field temperament is excellent, something which impresses many referees.

Whatever the outcome, it should be a great night. The Rothmans Medal is the highlight of the soccer year. It's really a player's night, the one time when the soccer fraternity gathers to pay homage to the people who do it out on the field.

The rewards for the winner are enormous. Apart from the Rothmans Medal itself, the media coverage afforded to the lucky player means offers should come flooding in before the kick-off of the 1982 season. —CRAIG MACKENZIE.

Watson the man of the year

When the Joe Watson — John Stevenson partnership was split up late last year, I had my reservations about whether either player would retain the same level of effectiveness.

Now, with the season over, it gives me great pleasure to say that Joe Watson was the No. 1 winning factor in the champion Sydney City side.

He probably won't win any awards but to me, Watson was the league's Man of the Year.

He has been a driving force not only this year, but in each of the three titles Sydney City has won over the past five years.

Close behind Watson was another winger, Phil O'Connor of APIA, who unfortunately was injured at the wrong time of year.

On paper, APIA has not been a team for the top of the league but O'Connor's influence was phenomenal. He was virtually a one-man band for so many games!

In my opinion, these two — O'Connor and Watson — where above the others. Every time they did not play, their teams were not the same.

Watson has been in Australia for so long, yet his talents have never been properly exploited at national team level, which remains a crying shame.

Jim Hermitson is another leader, of the Jim Hermitson mould. Technically faultless, the focal point of South Melbourne's attack, a man who offers himself for every ball, Fagan stands among the giants of the national competition and defenders often are intimidated by his authority.

While these have been the outstanding personalities of 1981, let's also list the men who will replace them in the seasons to come.

They are David Mitchell (Adelaide City), Graham Jennings, Peter Katholos (Sydney Olympic), Bruce James (Blacktown), Marshall Soper

plays every match. The man is never injured!

I also want to pay tribute to Foothills' young goalkeeper Dennis Boland. Again, I'm looking for players who have a big influence on their team, and Boland certainly fits into that category.

Some years ago, he was regarded as unpredictable, but at age 30, he is mature now, he is settled and he is one of the soundest goalkeepers in the league.

Boland and Zdravko Lujic spearhead J.U.S.T.'s revival, but Boland had the greater influence because unlike Lujic, he played the entire season.

John Perin again was the most influential player at Adelaide City. Every time he played well, the team played well. Ability-wise, Perin always has been a freak. He's been a bit temperamental, which hasn't helped him, but while they say that discipline can replace class, I don't think it can replace super-class.

Ian Souness of Sydney City was a temperamental player but he, along with Watson, was a driving force of the team, and it was his extraordinary shooting power that enabled Sydney City to win many a tight game.

Aun Evans is another leader, of the Jim Hermitson mould. Technically faultless, the focal point of South Melbourne's attack, a man who offers himself for every ball, Fagan stands among the giants of the national competition and defenders often are intimidated by his authority.

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Rale Rasic

(APIA), Jim Patikas (Sydney City), Bruno Cozeela (Footscray), Charlie Yankos (Heidelberg) all young players who have shown remarkable ability this year, so much so that they are destined to be the Watsons, O'Connors and Evanses of the future.

As for the top coaches of 1981, my nod goes to George Potter of Brisbane City and Willie Wallace of APIA, for neither club was expected to do as well as it did.

I also congratulate Eddie Thomson for having won a second successive championship with Sydney City.

My vote for Joke of the Year goes to the Rene Houseman

face.

Houseman was to have joined Sydney City. After countless delays and excuses, he didn't show up.

Sydney City did however, get his younger brother Marcelo. After a couple of appearances in the youth team, the club sent him back to Argentina.

I was happy last week to sign a new three-year contract with Blacktown, for we have a lot of exciting work still to do at the club.

SOUNESS MY CHOICE



TOM ANDERSON

There are a number of players who had to be considered for the "Rookie of the Year" title.

Young Lions such as South Melbourne's Steve Blair, Adelaide City's David Mitchell and Sydney Olympic's Peter Raskopoulos were all well to the fore.

But my selection is APIA-Leichhardt's dynamic young striker Marshall Soper.

Like Souness, Soper is a certainty to become a Soccereroo in the not too distant future.

Here is a youngster who has all the attributes to make a top striker — he's brave, can score goals and can take and give the knocks that are part and parcel of a striker's lot in present day soccer.

He concentrates on the basics and has introduced a well-organised system of play into the Sliders' ranks which allows individual freedom to players like Souness, Watson, Boddin and Kosmina.

His two PSL titles in two years is a record Thomson can be proud of.

But I must congratulate all players and coaches in the PSL this season for their professionalism and desire to improve.

I only hope that this attitude will rub off on some of our "amateur" administrators. Then maybe the game will get somewhere in Australia.



Souness scores

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CASH FOR CLASS IS SLICKERS' MOTTO

Sydney Sliders have proven again that it pays to spend top money to buy quality.

With so many successful businessmen in their ranks it is not surprising that the Sliders are prepared to back the old business adage "you have got to speculate to accumulate."

Through the years they have always bought truly top players, from Leo Baumgartner, to John Watkiss, through to recent buys Ken Boden and latterly John Kosmina.

Boden and Kosmina this year have added that touch of extra class to a team which already had gifted performers in Eo Watson, Kevin Mullin and Ian Souness.

Sydney City provides an interesting contrast with arch Sydney rival, St George BSC, which until the advent of the Philips League had kept pace with the Sliders through many years of State League rivalry.

St George's board of directors, similar to that of Sydney City's, is mostly made up of Hungarians of Jewish background.

St George's board has remained stable over more than two decades, just as has the Sliders' board, with Alex Pongrass and Frank Lowy the bosses.

Saint's leadership is more of a dictatorship than that at Sil-



Mike Johnson

hit St George, producing a situation where young full-back David Skeen was operating in a midfield role.

Saints have lost the coveted State league title, partly because they were not prepared to spend money to keep a top playing staff.

St George have used the excuse that the building of the stadium has taken up their money in recent years.

This is not correct, the ongoing monetary policy with its tight-fisted approach was a fact of life long before the St George amalgamating eight national team players.

In the two years I was at the club we transferred leading scorer, Mike Denton to Tasmania, international striker, Adrian Alston to Safeway United (formerly South Coast United) and lost another top striker, Martin Treasure to the national team players.

These players were never replaced and the team results suffered accordingly, assisted by the disruption of the World Cup competition.

In more recent times Saints have allowed class players John O'Shea and Phil O'Connor to leave the club rather than pay them the money they were able to get from Croatia and APIA.

Even this year while Sydney Croatia was building up, Saints were selling good players such

It certainly is more direct and dynamic — an indication

of games from free kicks all precede him into next season which may make it harder for him to reduce goalkeepers to frustrated tears as was the case with Peter Laumets in the critical game with South Melbourne-Hellas.

His reputation as a winner of games from free kicks all precede him into next season which may make it harder for him to reduce goalkeepers to frustrated tears as was the case with Peter Laumets in the critical game with South Melbourne-Hellas.

So what does 1982 offer Sliders' rivals?

Probably a more formidable opponent than this year, with the addition of Adelaide City's David Mitchell and West Adelaide's Martin Crook.

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RELIEF FOR NESTI

APIA 1
Marconi 1



Roger Sherack

Ground: Leichhardt Oval
Crowd: 4248
Referee: Stuart Mellings 8
Goals: Soper 20, Mariani 75

Yellow cards: Soper 2
Red cards: Nil

APIA-LEICHARDT:
Woodhouse 8, Soper 7, McAlister 8, Parker 7, Wilson 8, Bradley 7, Butler 9, Kalke 8, Hunter 8, Soper 8 (Marshall 67), O'Connor 7.

MARCONI: Maher 7, Tomaszich 7, Degney 6, Krasic 7, Mariani 9, Byrne 7, Krasic 7, Johnston 6, Sharne 7, Henderson 6, Jenkovic 7.

In an evenly fought game at Leichhardt Oval, some 4000 spectators had their first glimpse of what is in store for us should we take on the new season of soccer.

The lighting was superb, the game was attractive and what little there was of scoring was well worth waiting for. It might not have been the "real McCoy", but the scene was close enough to what one should expect during summer.

The humidity and the heat certainly wasn't on show but all other aspects of the proposals for the new season were there.

Marshall Soper scored for APIA Leichhardt very early in the piece, and Bertie Mariani repaid for the Fairfielders late in the game to give Marconi its first point in many weeks.

It was a welcome relief for Luciano Nesti, the man who took over from Raul Blanco close to the end of the season. In fact one might think Nesti a little lucky to get the point. A cross by Peter Sharne, from the corner kick, was superbly headed by Bertie Mariani wide of Woodhouse to make it 1-1.

"Lucky" indeed.

No, not really. In fact had Marconi taken the point the chances created the points might have gone well away from Leichhardt, some 20 km away.

MATCH RATING: 8

Leichhardt opened the scoring in the 20th minute following a good build up on the left hand side. Phil O'Connor managed to create some space before knocking the ball to the far post to find a completely unmarked Bradley. The APIA midfielders wasted no time in crossing the ball to Soper who found the net with a neat header from metres away.

The arm went up "La Chanson style" and the APIA supporters went wild.

Young Soper continued to be a thorn in Marconi's defence, but Marconi also to be interested in some private duels. He was booked following a foul on Eddie Krasic after the game was stopped and was lucky to get away with the yellow card only. Minutes later he was replaced by Willie Wallace, the coach of Leichhardt, obviously to keep the lad from yet another card.

An enthusiastic and talented player, Soper should know better than to get carried away. He was close to the leaders in the top scoring for 1981 and needed to stay on the park in order to score goals - not otherwise.

Butler for Leichhardt, and Mariani for Marconi were in great form - one might even say, they are maturing like a good wine, for both displayed some fine skills.

Tony Henderson, a surprise selection in the forward line, was followed by Mark Pullen over the park, while Peter Wilson made Mark Janovic's working day fairly difficult throughout.



APIA's Terry Butler wins the ball in the air, against Heidelberg opponent Andy Bozikas (left). In the middle is John Bradley.

Double for Brighton

Brighton-ICL 2 (Kirkpatrick 45, Forster 87) Juventus-Pioneer 1 (Di Martino 14), Tasmanian Ampol Cup final at South Hobart.

At: 1200 Ref: N. Johnson
BRIGHTON: Burden — Collins, Taylor, Peters, Hey — Skachell, Charlton, Kirkpatrick — Forster, Soper, Sharne, Byrne.

JUVENTUS: Jones — Burton, Lapolla, Di Martino, Darko — Di Falco (Kent 61), Bacon, Young, Schiro — Ward, Brine.

The cliché that goalkeepers can win or lose games for their team was proved in Tasmania's Ampol Cup final. Both goalkeepers played magnificently but it was the keeper Jones who dived over Forster's low shot three minutes from time to give Brighton-ICL the Tasmanian League and Cup double.

Burden started the ball rolling in the 14th minute, so to speak, when he mishandled a free kick by Burton. Under pressure from one of his own defenders, Burden dropped the ball and Di Martino, the Juventus centreback, who had pushed forward, hit the ball into the net of the net.

It was a great start for Juventus who should have sewn the game up on the half hour when Brine put Ward away with a precise pass down the

centre. But, the man who has scored nineteen goals in fifteen matches, chose to "carry" instead of shooting and the ball was snatched from his flying boots by Burden. It was a brave bit of goalkeeping and was rewarded for the earlier mistake.

From this point on it was Brighton who had all the chances.

Jones' combination of agility and bravery, however, was a high point into the penalty area by Taylor in the 28th minute was brilliantly brought under control with the instep by Forster but Jones smothered the ensuing shot. Within the next two minutes Jones saved well from Charlton and from a Chris Hey cross.

Brighton continued to apply pressure and it was in injury time at the end of the first half that Kirkpatrick met a pinpoint cross from Parker and it was the 45th minute. He did so again in the 75th from an effort by Forster. The marauding Hey should have clinched the game shortly after when Forster set up a chance, but the honour was left to Forster himself in the 87th minute just as everyone was preparing for extra time.

Again, just five minutes later, Wilson was in superb form as he saved a fizzing Ian Gibson shot.

But within minutes Wilson

showed superb agility to prevent what looked like another. Duncan Cole's long through was headed on by Tony Brennan and then John O'Shea's final header looked destined for the top left hand corner — until Wilson somehow got his fingers to the ball to tip it over the bar for a corner.

Again, just five minutes later, Wilson was in superb form as he saved a fizzing Ian Gibson shot.

But still it was a first half that should have seen Canterbury put the issue well and truly beyond doubt.

For them it was a day to remember with despair.

Yes, despair, not happiness over a win, but with one more goal each man would have collected a \$500 bonus.

But more than that another point and fourth position on the league ladder would have meant another \$1250 a man.

So for one goal and one point each player got a bit of pocket a staggering \$1750.

Within minutes of the second half beginning, Canterbury's frustration at not being able to score a second goal was evident . . . as was flickleness in defence once Massa went to sweeper and skipper Terry Byrne to midfield.

Again Byrne had had a great game. He so thoroughly deserves his nickname as "Mr Unstoppable".

Canterbury back-pedalled and differed in defence and as Pernson lifted their game they were the better and more constructive attacking team.

Player coach Peter Ollerton replaced himself with Ron McIvor and brought on Claude Lucceschi for Alan Whittle.

Lucceschi, Doug Brown and Robert Cullen proved to be

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lor had to leave the game.

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Sydney City celebrates with a goal spree

Sydney City 5
Adel. City 3

Scorers: — Sliders: Souness 30 sec, 7th; Barnes 17th; Mullen 50th; Patikas 87th. Adelaide: Melta 4th; Mitchell 6th; Jones 56th. Venue — Sydney Athletic Field. Crowd: 2106. Conditions: Good. Referee Rating: P. Remplay — 8.

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH: Clarke 8 — Mullen 8, Robertson 7, O'Connor 7, Cant 7 — Souness 7 (Lee 70th), Barnes 7, Souness 9 (Patikas 76th) — Watson 8, Kosmina 7, Boden 7.

ADELAIDE CITY JUVEN- TUS: Przybelski 6 (Perrison 6, 60th) — Russell 6, Jones 7, Perin 7, B. Nyskobus 7 — Dods 6, Marocchi 7, Melta 8 — Signore 7, Mitchell 7, Nyskobus 7.

Their first team squad is strong and there is great depth.

Coach Eddie Thomson has proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that he is a true professional and a man who knows what this game of soccer is all about.

TOWNS: Win two PSL championships in your first two seasons as coach surely must be a record, and a proud one at that.

Eddie Thomson must be Australia's soccer Coach of the Year.

But of course the leadership and example for any team must come from the top and in the Sliders' director Andrew Lederer, City has the best.

This man's record is second to none and here is an administrator who's achievements are on the board and it is a record that nothing can be taken away from.

All eyes were on Adelaide's David Mitchell in this game.

It is no secret that the Sliders would like to add this youngster to their already powerful squad.

In this game Mitchell showed that he has immense talent but found the going hard against the quick-tackling Sliders.

However in a better team and with more experience under his belt he is surely a young champion of the future.

This was the perfect game to end the season on.

Plenty of excitement, plenty of goals and fast open football.

Once again congratulations to the Sliders — Australia's top club soccer side.

It's only a great pity that there was not a big crowd in attendance to witness this entertainment.

But with the weather brilliant, the Sydney beaches were packed and surely this is a pointer to the advocates of summer soccer. When the weather is hot in the NSW the place the sports fans want to be is in a football stadium.

COLE IS KING AGAIN

Heidelberg 1
APIA 0

Crowd: 2000. Referee: C. Bambridge (Vic J 7).

Caution: Oliver, Skellern. Heidelberg finished the season on a winning note to underline the tremendous revival it has undergone since his return of Len McKendry in June.

The team's record under him reads eight wins, four draws and three defeats and that lifted the club from a relegation candidate to a comfortable midtable position.

McKendry now will go to

PHILIPS LEAGUE BEST GOALKEEPER AWARD

Sponsored By

Konstantine's

The "Soccer Action"

goalkeeper of the year will receive a Seiko watch from Konstantine Jewel Box, Melbourne.

The winner will be the goalkeeper who has appeared most often in the "Soccer Action" team of the week.

This week's top keeper is PHIL DANDO of Newcastle. Joint winners of the award are BRUCE JAMES of Blacktown and MARTYN CROOK of W. Adel. with four votes each.

MELBOURNE 3000
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ALARM CHRONOGRAPH



The State Minister of Ethnic Affairs, Immigration and Housing, Mr Jeff Kennett was guest of honor at a recent South Melbourne Hellas home match. Mr Kennett (left) is pictured with Hellas president Sam Papasavas.

MATCH RATING: 8

In stating this I think that I must be fair when I say that the official crowd announced left much to the imagination.

But back to the soccer and the Sliders proved that they are worthy champions.

Their first team squad is strong and there is great depth.

Coach Eddie Thomson has proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that he is a true professional and a man who knows what this game of soccer is all about.

Towns win two PSL championships in your first two seasons as coach surely must be a record, and a proud one at that.

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ALARM CHRONOGRAPH

Footscray foiled by Dando

**Foots. JUST 0
Newcastle 1**

Goal: Heys 50th.
Venue: Schinler Reserve.
Crowd: 2800.
Cautions: Kyriakouless (JUST).
Referee: Mellings 7.



MATCH RATING: 6

NEWCASTLE KB UTO: Boland 6 — Kyriakouless 7, Kondarlos 8, O'Reilly 8, Hazabent 6 — Jovanovic 7, Milne 8, Kakantoni 6 — Cozzella 6 (Ilioski 72nd), Vorwej 6, Lujic 6.

FOOTSCRAY: Boland 9 — Curan 8, Drinkwater 7, Mason 7, Tredinnick 7 — Buckley 6 (injured), sub. Gosling 81st), Senkalski 7, Jones 7 — Heys 8, McLelland 6, Stamp 6 (Kamaz 6, half time).

Newcastle played without key midfielder Steve Summer and fullback Paul Reaney, both injured.

JUST should have surged to a comfortable lead early in the first round match to beat Footscray 1-0 at Schinler Reserve.

Newcastle's hero was goalkeeper Phil Dando who saved two goal-bound shots from Jim Milne and one from Jim Koniarous.

The winning goal came from the left wing run of Lujic but failed to capitalise.

Senkalski played a fine pass across the penalty area to Ian Buckley who cut inside and had his shot blocked by Jim Milne in the 10th minute.

But JUST fought back and dominated the final period, with defenders Kyriakouless and Kondarlos pushing up into the penalty area.

Dando made brilliant saves from a header by Senkalski in the third minute and from a powerful shot by Milne in the 10th minute.

JUST continued to set up scoring chances from the left wing run of Lujic but failed to capitalise.

Newcastle replaced Alf Stamp with David Kamaz at half time and Heys established the winning lead shortly afterwards.

But JUST fought back and dominated the final period, with defenders Kyriakouless and Kondarlos pushing up into the penalty area.

Buckley suffered a recurrence of his notorious knee injury in a clash with Steve

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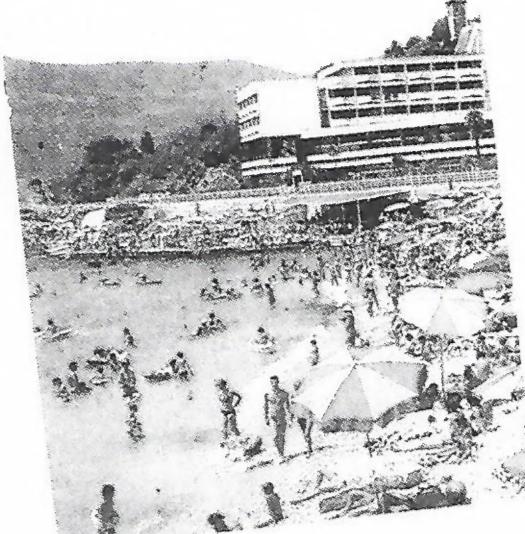


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PRESSES PHILIPS LEAGUE STANDINGS

Figures in brackets denote last week's position on the ladder.

	HOME	AWAY	W	D	L	F	A	Gls	Pts	
1. (1) Sydney City Hakoah	11	4	0	37	14	8	1	6	22	16
2. (2) Stk Melbourne Hellas	11	2	2	25	10	2	11	2	16	17
3. (3) Brisbane City	9	4	2	24	9	3	7	5	13	16
4. (4) APIA-Leichhardt	7	7	1	25	13	5	4	6	14	18
5. (7) Canberra City	7	4	4	27	17	6	3	6	14	15
6. (5) Brisbane Lions	9	4	1	23	9	2	7	7	18	24
7. (6) Adelaide City Juventus	9	2	4	22	13	4	4	7	24	25
8. (9) Heidelberg-Alexander	6	4	5	19	16	6	3	6	29	24
9. (8) Sydney Olympic	8	5	2	25	17	3	4	8	21	29
10. (10) Newcastle KB United	5	5	5	25	17	6	3	6	16	24
11. (11) Wollongong	5	7	3	24	20	3	5	7	11	19
12. (12) Preston Makedonia	7	4	4	28	14	2	3	10	11	27
13. (13) Footscray JUST	7	5	3	21	14	2	2	11	11	34
14. (14) Marconi-Datsun	6	3	6	16	20	3	4	8	7	25
15. (15) Blacktown City	4	4	8	18	25	2	5	7	14	22
16. (16) West Adelaide Hellas	4	3	8	16	23	1	1	13	10	34

TEAM OF WEEK

In brackets — number of appearances in this team —

DANDO (2)
(Newcastle)

CURRAN (1)
(Newcastle) MARIANI (2)
(Marconi) TOPAZ (2)
(West Adel) MARICIC (1)
(West Adel)

MELTA (2)
(Adel City) SOUNESS (4)
(Syd. City) O'DONNELL (1)
(Blacktown)

REDFERN (1)
(Syd. Olympic) HEYS (1)
(Newcastle) BULJEVIC (5)
(SM-Hellas)

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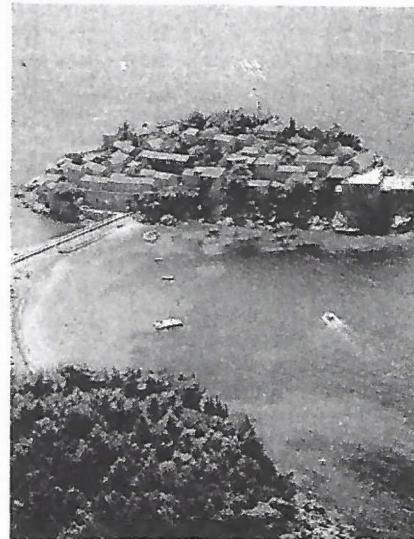
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per night



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The best of Yugoslavia Holiday No.3A From \$519

13 Days (12 Nights)

Day 1 Monday - SLED.

Day 2 Tuesday - BLEUDUPLICA.

Day 3 Wednesday - LIPCA/ZAGREB.

Day 4 Thursday - ZAGREB/PUTVICE.

Day 5 Friday - PUTVICE/SPLIT.

Day 6 Saturday - SPLIT/DUBROVNIK.

Day 7 Sunday - DUBROVNIK.

Day 8 Monday - DUBROVNIK.

Day 9 Tuesday - DUBROVNIK/MOSTAR.

Day 10 Wednesday - MOSTAR/SARAJEVO.

Day 11 Thursday - SARAJEVO/BELGRADE.

For details see Holiday No. 3

Day 12 Friday - BELGRADE. Morning sightseeing includes the historic Kalemegdan Fortress, the Byzantine Cathedral, Parliament, the 25th of May Museum and Teo's Memorial Park. In the evening there is a farewell dinner.

Day 13 Saturday - Tour ends after breakfast.

Your holiday includes:

- Accommodation in first class hotels with private bath
- Breakfast with lunch or dinner daily
- Land transportation by air-conditioned motor coaches
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours as per itinerary
- Service of a professional tour director
- Hotel service charges and local taxes

Discover the Adriatic Coast Holiday No.4 \$315

7 Days (6 Nights)

Day 1 Monday - DUBROVNIK. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 2 Tuesday - DUBROVNIK. Sightseeing of the historic old town, the Pile Gate, the Riva, the Church of St. Blaise and the Franciscan Church with its pharmacy dating back to 1317. We also visit the Palace of the Rector and Sponza. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3 Wednesday - DUBROVNIK/NIJAR. Transfer to the harbour to catch the fast ferry later at 10.00 a.m. for a relaxing cruise to Nijar, the sunniest island on the Adriatic. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4 Thursday - NIJAR. Full day to relax and enjoy the charming island. Sightseeing highlights include the church of St. Nicholas, the City Walls and the old Arsenal. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5 Friday - NIJAR/SPLIT. Transfer to pier at 4.00 p.m. for a two-hour journey to Split. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel and dinner.

Day 6 Saturday - SPLIT. Morning sightseeing of this historic city founded nearly 17 centuries ago. Your tour visits Diocletian's Palace with the Emperor's Mausoleum, the Peristyle, the Royal Palace and the Forum, all featuring with arcades, arches and columns dating back to Roman times. Dinner and overnight.

Day 7 Sunday - SPLIT. Your tour ends after breakfast.

Departure Dates: From Dubrovnik
Every Monday April-October
Single Supplement \$50.00

Your tour includes:

- Accommodation in first class hotels with private facilities.
- Breakfast and dinner daily.
- Land carriage on trolley buses.
- Sightseeing as per itinerary.
- Transfers, assistance and baggage handling at all ports.
- Hotel service charges and local taxes.

Player of the Year award

As last year, the best player in the national league and a companion will fly to Europe with Yugoslav Airlines.

Conditions of the award are:

- The air tickets to Europe are strictly NON TRANSFERABLE. Neither can they be exchanged for cash or sold.
- The tickets must be used in the period from November 1, 1981 to April 1, 1982.
- Votes are cast on a 6-5-4-3-2-1 basis for each game. In case of a tie, the winner of the award will be decided on a countback.

SUPPORT THE AIRLINE THAT SUPPORTS YOUR SPORT

THIS WEEK'S VOTES

FOOTSCRAY JUST 0 NEWCASTLE KB UNITED 1 (Heys)

at Schintler Reserve. Votes by Laurie Schwab:

6. Dando (N), 5. Heys (N), 4. Kondoros (JUST), 3. Curran (N), 2. Milne (JUST), 1. O'Reilly (JUST).

CANBERRA CITY ? (Gibson) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 at Bruce Park. Votes by Peter Windsor:

6. Hoszowski (Can), 5. Wilson (Mak), 4. T. Byrne (Can), 3. Cullen (B), 2. Boyle (Mak), 1. Purdie (Can).

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 1 (Forde) BRISBANE CITY 1 (Wilson) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Votes by Meno Toutsidis:

6. Maricic (WAI), 5. Topsz (WAI), 4. Ford (WA), 3. P. Wilson (BC), 2. Crook (WA), 1. Kolos (BC).

BRISBANE LIONS 0 BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (Turner) at Richlands. Votes by Bruce Waddell:

6. O'Donnell (Black), 5. Burns (BL), 4. Burrows (Black), 3. Wilson (BL), 2. Krstic (Black), 1. Ferris (BL).

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 1 (Cole) APIA-LEICHARDT 0 at Olympic Park. Votes by Dick Prendergast:

6. Woodhouse (APIA), 5. Campbell (B'berg), 4. Morsello (APIA), 3. Salemidis (B'berg), 2. O'Connor (APIA), 1. Wilson (APIA).

MARCONI 1 (Krnecic) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Buljeric) at Marconi Stadium. Votes by Ted Smithies:

6. Mariani (Marc), 5. Buljeric (Hellen), 4. Krnecic (Marc),

5. Vardareff (W), 6. Hedfern (SO), 4. Trebilnick (W), 3. Scott (SO), 2. Ainsworth (W), 1. Raskopoulos (SO).

APIA-LEICHARDT 1 (Soper) MARCONI-DATSUN 1 (Mariani) at Lambert Park. (mid-week). Votes by Roger Sheppard:

6. Mariani (Marc), 5. Butler (APIA), 4. Kefka (APIA), 3. Soper (APIA), 2. Wilson (APIA), 1. Woodhouse (APIA).

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH 5 (Souness 2, Barnes, Mullin, Patikos) ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 3 (Melta, Mitchell, Jones) at Sydney Athletic Field. Votes by Tom Anderson:

6. Souness (SC), 5. Melta (AC), 4. Watson (SC), 2. Nykiel (AC), 3. Kosmina (SC), 1. Mullin (SC).

Heys the leader finished:

6. Heys (N), 5. Wilson (W), 4. Soper (APIA).

7. Wilson (AC).

72. Zvendoom (H'berg), T. Byrne (Can).

68. Crook (WA).

67. Bennett (BL), Woodhouse (APIA).

64. Dunleavy (Woll).

61. Boland (JUST).

60. Evans (SM-Helles).

Top scorers:

16. Cole (H'berg).

14. Evans (SM-Helles).

13. Souness (SC), Soper (APIA).

Congratulations on winning AMPOL CUP, STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP and good luck for the Docherty Cup

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PSL THE NEXT TARGET FOR AJAX

By BOBBY McLACHLAN,
Ajax coach

LOU DENYS: Goalkeeper. Established a new State League record of 100 consecutive league appearances. He has not missed a league match since joining the club from St Albans in April 1977.



GORDON WALLACE: Striker. Signed on a free transfer from Scottish Second Division club Cowdenbeath earlier this year. The complete footballer with excellent close ball skills and reads the game well. Unlucky to be hit by injury but sure to bounce back. Age 32.



DAVID HOGGEN: Utility. Third season in senior soccer after breaking into the first team in August 79. A tight marker, David is also a keen overlapping wing and is bound to benefit from playing alongside John Gardner. Age 19.



GUS MCLEOD: Striker. Has already made his mark with top scoring in the Ampol Cup and securing the winning goal in the final. Was sought by Bobby McLachlan after nearing a century of goals in Scottish non league soccer with leading club Pollok. Prior to that served St Mirren, Hamilton and Berwick Rangers, during a period of eight years. Age 30.



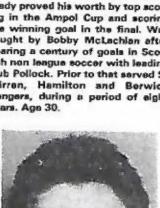
STUART CANNELL: Centre back. Signed from Sunshine City for \$2000 in January. Came to Australia in June '79 after playing for Doncaster Rovers in English 4th Division. Age 21.



LIND GRECH: Goalkeeper. A product of Ajax's junior policy. Small but agile with razor sharp reflexes. Age 19.



JIM WILLIAMS: Midfielder. \$4000 from Heidelberg. Jim came from South Liverpool to play for St Mirren. He was in the St Mirren side which won the Gully in the Ampol Cup final in 1979. Age 27.



KEVIN WALL: Striker. Came up through the juniors at Frankston Pines and was an instant hit in his first season. Scored 10 goals in 1980 ending up as Frankston City's top scorer with 12 goals in 20 league games. Was chased by five clubs before being awarded a free transfer.



GERRY BENNETT: Fullback. Came to Gully at the same time as Billy Morrey last year. A tireless worker who contributed greatly to the club's league success and Ampol Cup win. Age 22.



KIT GRECHAN: Midfielder. Signed from Sunshine City Western Suburbs. The first division club got \$1500 in cash and Billy Voitek as player-coach in exchange. Came to Australia in 1977 after playing for Celtic's reserves and Peterhead in Scotland. Age 25.



PETER LEWIS: Fullback. Signed from Altona for a bargain \$1000. Came to Australia in 1977 and spent two years at Sunshine before moving to Altona in June '78. Captained the Maroons for two seasons. Age 25.



JOHN GARDINER: Signed for \$5000 in February from Croatia which he led to league and cup honours. Spent 8 months with Hellenes in the PSL in 1977. Previously won two Rothmans Medals at George Cross. Age 33.



ALAN BENNETT: Midfielder. Another of Ajax's UK imports. Signed on a free transfer from Scottish club East Stirling. Hard working with good disposal. Age 25.



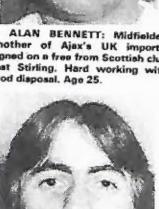
MICHAEL LUBAC: Goalkeeper. First tested senior soccer with Ajax in last year's Victoria Cup series where he performed well. The highlight of his first team experience was his penalty save against Hakoah striker Graham French. Age 20.



BILLY MORREY: Winger. Billy joined Gully from Marine (UK). Good turn of speed and is not easy to dispossess with his tank like build. Age 29.



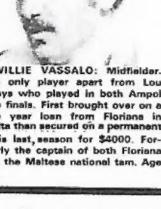
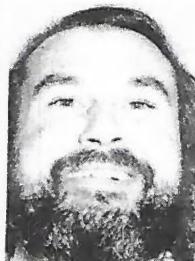
PAUL LEWIS: Striker. A real individual who shapes up as a top-class player. Tremendous shot and great speed. Signed from English non-league outfit Oswestry Town this year. Age 33.



WILLIE VASSALLO: Midfielder. The only player apart from Lou Denys who played in both Ampol Cup finals. First brought over on a two year loan from Floriana in Malta. Signed on a permanent basis last season for \$2000. Formerly the captain of both Floriana and the Maltese national team. Age 30.



DANE BERANIC: Won the 1980 Weinstein Medal as the best junior player in Victoria. Skilled, strong, versatile this youngster has a big future in Australian soccer.

Mario Borg,
team manager.John Borg,
masseur.

Profit on transfers

Ajax signed 10 players for the 1981 season and transferred eight of last year's squad. In terms of transfer fees alone this staggering turnover in playing staff found Ajax better off financially to the tune of \$7,400. The figures below don't take into account air fares for players signed from overseas and signing-on fees.

TRANSFERRED	TO	Fee
Jimmy Dunne	Brisbane City	\$10,000
Billy Voitek	Western Suburbs	\$1,000
Steve Bennie	Springvale	\$3,000
John Patten	Springvale	\$1,000
Andrew Segi	Western Suburbs	\$1,500
Dave Perkins	Morwell Falcons	\$3,000
Grant Smart	Morwell Falcons	\$2,000
Steve Crilly	Werribee	\$800
	TOTAL	\$22,300

SIGNED	FROM	Fee
John Gardiner	Essendon Croatia	\$5,000
Kevin Wall	Frankston City	Free
Peter Lewis	Altona	\$1,000
Paul Lewis	Oswestry Town U.K.	Free
Stuart Cannell	Altona	\$2,000
Jim Williams	Heidelberg United	\$4,000
Kit Grechan	Western Suburbs	\$2,500
Alan Bennett	East Stirling, U.K.	Free
Gordon Wallace	Cowdenbeath, U.K.	Free
Gus Macleod	Pollok, U.K.	\$400
	TOTAL	\$14,900

then I expect at least \$4000 worth out on the park.

It's become a real rat race here buying a player on the local market and I think that's got a lot to do with the lack of business-minded people running clubs. Ajax is fortunate to have someone as fair and as strict as Guy Spiteri as its president and a shrewd treasurer like Arnold Langer.

I remember when I first went to Green Gully I asked one of the players what role he saw himself taking in the team. He said not to worry about the midfield, that he'd be the general there. Then he went on to say that he'd take all the free kicks, create the openings up front and take all the corners. I said to myself I've got the best midfielder in Australia here but once I saw him out on the field if I said that he was the worst midfielder in Australia I'd be lying. He wasn't that good!

I always tell players not to tell me how good they are, just go out onto the park and show me.

Australian soccer is riddled with players who are exceptionally talented — at telling you what great players they are once they've got a drink in their hands.

But players who come here soon become wiser in their dealings with clubs. Sure, some of them get a rough deal and the next contract they sign has special clauses in it protecting their interests.

Some of the Ajax players have maximum transfer fees stipulated in their contracts but there's no way that the club will lose on the deal. If the player costs \$4000 then he'll go for \$4000. The signing-on fee is the player's business. I regard signing-on fees and playing wages as the player's payment for doing a job for the club and if I pay \$4000 for a player

We thought winning the championship would be a three-year job but we've done it a year ahead of schedule so what do we do now? Do we stay in the State League and try to win the title again or do we tackle a new venture? That's what the club must decide.

You have to be motivated yourself in order to motivate others and Green Gully Ajax probably needs a new challenge.

I'm not on a written contract with the club. I work on the basis of mutual trust and respect and these values go hand in hand with many aspects of Green Gully Ajax.

I've got no reason to leave.

Congratulations all players, Gully is certain for the cup

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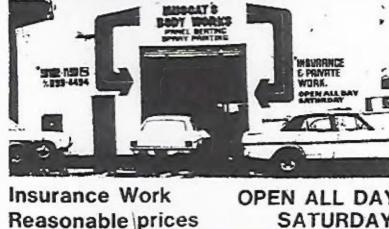
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Green Gully Ajax's social rooms which were officially opened last year. The rooms feature seating for 250, a dance floor, bar, boardroom, snooker tables and kitchen. The rooms are fully air-conditioned and superbly lit with stage facilities for cabaret nights.

McLACHLAN CALLS THE SHOTS

So much for all the talk about John Gardiner and Bobby McLachlan cutting each other's throats.

That's what went around Melbourne's soccer traps when Gardiner transferred to Green Gully Ajax from Essendon Croatia earlier this year.

Well, McLachlan's still king pin:

at Ajax and likely to be for another few years while Gardiner's soccer brain plays an integral role in the club's onfield success.

May be both should be used in their best capacities — McLach-

lan as manager, Gardiner as coach.

That's the sort of set-up you find at top level professional clubs overseas.

I've got no doubts that the shrewd McLachlan's wheeling and dealing for players to revamp the club's first team squad has played the most significant role in Ajax's State League championship win, Ampol Cup triumph and ongoing quest for Dockey and State League Cup victories.

Simply put, McLachlan bought the right players, and that's no mean feat. Libel laws won't allow me to name some of the duds that have come from overseas. Also, there's not enough space to mention them all!

The inflated local market sent the astute McLachlan searching for overseas talent. And what a successful search he made. Look at Gus Macleod for example.

McLachlan paid Pollok, Macleod's Scottish club, about \$400 for the services of a man who tops the State League goalscoring list and has added character and leadership qualities to Ajax's first team as well as his nose for goal.

Gordon Wallace has class written all over him. He's been unlucky with injuries but we should see him at his best next season as mid-fielder Alan Bennett looks likely to figure in Ajax's plans for some time to come.

Then there's Paul Lewis. We haven't seen the best of him yet. He's young and skilful and I expect him to be a regular in Ajax colors next year.

So what if some people are saying that Ajax merely bought success? That's sour grapes. What such a comment really means is such a club with such a club had the vision and application of Ajax's managerial and administrative staff so that they too had been successful in 1981.

Victoria's western suburbs are crying out for a club which performs at the highest level in the land. That means PSL competition and that's exactly where Ajax's destiny lies.

Imagining what sort of following you could get by setting slight the soccer crazed public of the western suburbs!

And that's what Ajax is out to do — to bring that area to life.

Well done Ajax. You deserve to stand tall as the 1981 State League champion club, the first time that such a title has been conferred upon you with the promise of more such accolades in the future.

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

With the exception of Socceroo honors, Ajax sweeper John Gardiner is the most highly successful player in the State League.

Two Rothmans Medals, State League championships, Ampol, Dockey and State League Cups and a host of club awards all have gone to Gardiner who joined Ajax earlier this year after a five-year stint with Essendon Croatia.

He is an astute students of the game and recently was elevated to the level of a full ASFL staff coach.

Gardiner arrived in Australia in the late 60's and played with George Cross until late 1976 when he joined Croatia, then Essendon Lions, in the first Division of the Metropolitan League.

"I look for a club which is on the move and has exciting tendencies for success. Some of the people at George Cross thought that joining Croatia would be the end of me because I had dropped down a league but they didn't realise the club's potential," said Gardiner.

"Green Gully also had great potential and I thought that I could do a job for the club. Really Green Gully's progress has been enormous. The club now buys better players and you certainly can't complain about the wages."

"I'd like to play next year but you can't go on for ever. I'm 34 now but I know I still have a lot to offer."

"I'd like to think that I could play PSL soccer. In fact it's unfortunate that I'm not still playing with Green Gully."

Gardiner had a stint with Hellas in 1977 but it wasn't a successful period for him.

"No coach ever wanted to get rid of me. All of my problems have stemmed from committee and I've been stabbed in the back a few times."

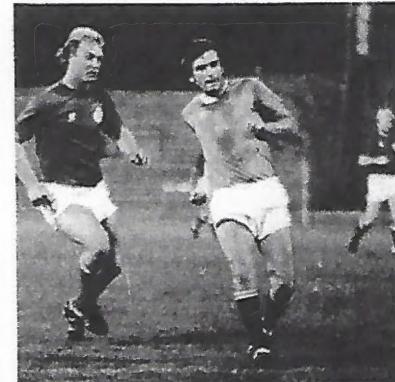
"I didn't know too much about Green Gully when I joined and I hoped that the club would be able to win the league. The main opposition came from Croatia but coaching changes and committee upheavals upset the players and affected their performances."

"Green Gully's had a good year as a club and I've been impressed as a player. Playing still is first and foremost on my mind but I'm very interested in coaching as well."

"Bobby (McLachlan) and I discussed a lot of things this year about the playing side and we sometimes differed but we always tried to resolve those differences to ourselves. Whenever we disagreed the final decision always fell to Bobby. He had to decide what to do himself."

Gardiner's on a one-year contract with Ajax which expires on November 30. There's no option for Ajax to take up but it's a better to say that the club's hierarchy will try to lure Gardiner into another contract.

Like most members of Victoria's soccer fraternity the locals trust at Green Gully Ajax knows that Gardiner is capable of doing a good job for the club in 1982.



• John Gardiner clears in front of Carl Gilder of Croatia



• Arnold Langer (Treasurer)

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The squad which AR Split hopes will bring it victory in the 1981 Black Douglas Cup final. Back row, left to right: M. Dimac, D. Alamic, I. Cesljar, N. Vulic, M. Franjic, Z. Tusek, N. Jugovic, J. Skoblar (president). Front row: S. Bikanic, M. Vlaovic, F. Franjic, N. Cotic, I. Istuk, E. Gajzer, M. Cesljar.



Two more Split stars. At right is Ivan Istuk, midfielder on loan from Essendon Croatia. The other player pictured is Split stalwart Frank Franjic.

Istuk, Cotic top men for Split

Industrial League giant AR Split is out to win the Black Douglas Cup for the second consecutive year.

The final, between Split and Ansett, kicks off at 3 pm on Sunday at Middle Park and will be preceded by the Invitation Cup final at 1 pm between the reserve teams of Middle Park and Clifton Hill YCW.

Split is the more experienced of the finalists in the Black Douglas Cup. The Croatian club is playing in its fourth cup final, while Ansett is in the final for the first time.

Its first Industrial League prize was the Fourth Division championship it won in 1977. The following year Split captured the Third Division title and continued its rise with its Second Division title win in 1979. The club won the First Division championship at its first attempt last year.

Split will rely upon star players Ivan Istuk and Ned Cotic, both ex-Essendon Croatia. Cotic captained Croatia's reserve team for four years before joining Split this year.

Ansett's strength lies with captain-coach Giuseppe Timpano, ex-East Melbourne Helvetic and Essendon Lions, and Graham Hayes, vice-captain and sweeper who is a former Essendon Croatia player and Ansett's Player of the Year in 1976, 77 and 78.

The most renowned player in Sunday's cup final must be Ansett's ageless Frank Loughran, former Victorian and Australian representative. His skill and experience will play a major role in Ansett's ability to win control of midfield.

I still can't see Split being beaten. Sure, anything is possible in the cauldron of a cup final atmosphere but Split looks too accomplished for the airline boys and I expect a second Black Douglas Cup trophy to be held in Split hands by about 5 pm on Sunday. —

CRAIG MACKENZIE



Ned Cotic, ex-Essendon Croatia. One of the players Split hopes will bring it success on Sunday.

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BLACK DOUGLAS CUP FINAL

KICK-OFF 3 PM

WILL ANSETT UPSET ODDS?

Can Ansett upset the odds and win its first Black Douglas Cup by toppling favorite AR Split in Sunday's final at Middle Park?

It would be a grand occasion for the Ansett side should it knock off the Croatians and the Black Douglas Cup would give Ansett a fine record of success in a short time.

Ansett was formed in 1967 and played social matches until 1975 when it entered the Industrial and Amateur Soccer League of Victoria, winning promotion to Third Division in its first year of Industrial League competition.

The following year, 1976, Ansett won the Third Division title, repeated the

dose two years later in Second Division and was proclaimed as the best side in the Industrial League in 1979 when it won the First Division championship.

Ansett has experienced Cup success.

It won the Footscray YMCA indoor soccer cup in 1979, the Airlines Cup in 1976, 77 and 78 and was the winner of Coburg's six-a-side competition in 1979 and 1980.

And the club is set to win the First Division this year. If it does, success in Sunday's cup final would give it a memorable double.



Ansett's first team squad. Back row, left to right: B. Maiolo, F. Loughran, J. Timpano, G. Haynes, S. Power, I. Leaves, F. Kovacek. Front row: G. Power, W. Runciman, D. Carmichael, M. Attard, R. Liberto, J. Shearer, S. Timpano.



MARIO ATTARD, 25, born in Tripoli. Position: goalkeeper with Ansett for seven years. Vic schoolboys rep IASLV rep 1978, 80, 81.



GREG POWER, 33. Position: defender. Previous clubs: Tarax, McColl and Bosch. First year with Ansett.



STEVE POWER: 31, defender. Previous clubs: Tarax, McColl, Bosch. Represented IASLV 17 times.



SANTO TIMPANO: 21. Position: defender. Ex-EsSENDON Lions, Coburg Rep Vic U15. IASLV 1981.



GRAEME HAYNES: (v/capt), 26. Position: sweeper. Previous clubs: Essendon Croatia. IASLV rep 1981. Ansett Player of Year 1976, 77, 78. Industrial League 2nd Div Player of the Year 1978. One of the longest serving players.



WALTER RUNCIMAN, 30. Born in England. Position: midfield. Ex-Albion Rovers (U.K.), Bedford United (W.A.). Honours: Bradford Boys, Yorkshire Boys, W.A. Amateur Rep in 1974.



FRANKIE LOUGHREN: born in Belfast. Position: midfield in the first season with Moreland represented both Australia and Victoria. Scored one of Australia's goals in the 2-0 victory over Japan in the 1956 Olympic Games. Until 1975 he played with Coburg.



IAN LEAVES: 31, Position: midfield. Previous clubs: Makedonia, Essendon, Kellogg City. Honours: Schoolboys country rep, Ansett Player of Year 1979.



BRUNO MAILO, 24. Position: forward. Previous clubs: Essendon Lions. Honours: IASLV country championships 78-79-80-81. Ansett Player of Year 1980.



FRANK KOVACEK, 31. Position: forward. Previous clubs: Croatia, Tarax player of Year 1980.



RENATO LIBERTO: 16. Position: forward. Previous clubs: Essendon City, Batman United. Rep Vic U/17 1977. Industrial country championship 1981.



DUNCAN CARMICHAEL, 47. Position: forward. Ex-Peterborough, also played with Hakoah, Makedonia in Victorian State League.



JIMMY SHEARER: 29. Born in Scotland. Position: defender. Ex-Croatia U/16, U/18. Joined Ansett in 1975. One of the longest serving members of the club.



GIUSEPPE TIMPANO, 28. Born in Italy. Captain-coach. Previous clubs East Melb-Helvetic 1970-72, Essendon Lions 1973-77. Coached Ansett in 1975-76-77-78-81.

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